

Toolbox Talk

20. Enforcing Authorities



What?

- Health and Safety laws which apply to businesses are enforced by inspectors from the Local Authority, Environmental Health Department (EHO), Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Fire Brigade or the Environment Agency in the UK
- Their job is to investigate incidents, follow up on complaints or to simply check that the various legal requirements are being complied with

Why?

- They have the right to turn up without warning and to take action to enforce the law by issuing enforcement notices or recommending criminal prosecution. They can also take statements, ask for work to stop and impound material and equipment if it is important to their investigation. You should ask to see their “warrant” cards just to confirm they are indeed formally appointed inspectors

Do



- ✓ Give assistance where possible
- ✓ Be open and honest if questioned
- ✓ Give a written statement if requested
- ✓ Make sure your statement is correct before signing it
- ✓ Request a representative to be present if required
- ✓ Cooperate fully with the inspector
- ✓ Inform management of the visit
- ✓ Provide the relevant facts to help with their investigations

Don't



- ✗ Obstruct an inspector
- ✗ Ignore an improvement or prohibition notice
- ✗ Sign anything you have not read properly or is not accurate
- ✗ Lie or cover up relevant facts
- ✗ Give opinions that aren't factual
- ✗ Mislead to protect others



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